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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 KATHLEEN DOUGLAS,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 EMPLOYBRIDGE, LLC, et al.,

14 Defendants.

CASE NO. C18-1215JLR

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
CONTINUE TRIAL

15 Before the court is the parties' stipulated motion to modify the court's scheduling
16 order. (9/30/19 Stip. Mot. (Dkt. # 15).) For the second time in four days, the parties
17 jointly request "a ninety (90) day continuance of the trial date and all unexpired pretrial
18 deadlines in this matter." (*Id.* at 1.) In support of that request, the parties assert, as they
19 did in their last stipulated motion, that they need a continuance so that they can
20 meaningfully engage in settlement negotiations. (*See id.* at 2; 9/27/19 Stip. Mot. (Dkt.
21 # 13) at 1-2.)

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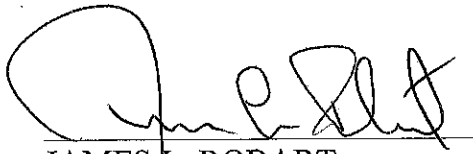
1 Absent a showing of good cause, the court does not grant “short” trial
2 continuances. Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4); (Sched. Order (Dkt. # 8) at 2 (“The court will
3 alter these dates only upon good cause shown . . .”).) It is well established that
4 upcoming settlement negotiations do not constitute good cause to modify a scheduling
5 order. *See, e.g., Gerawan Farming, Inc. v. Rehrig Pac. Co.*, No. 1:11-cv-01273 LJO
6 BAM, 2013 WL 1164941, at *4 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 20, 2013) (“[A]s a legal matter,
7 settlement discussions do not, in [and] of themselves, arise to good cause for modifying a
8 scheduling order.”); *Rybski v. Home Depot USA, Inc.*, No. CV-12-751-PHX-LOA, 2012
9 WL 5416586, at *2 (D. Ariz. Oct. 17, 2012) (“The parties’ settlement negotiations or
10 mediation do not constitute good cause to continue the Rule 16 deadlines.”). Thus, the
11 parties have not shown good cause to continue the case schedule. As such, the court
12 DENIES the parties’ stipulated motion (Dkt. # 15).

13 As the court noted in its last order, if the parties do not want to keep the current
14 case schedule, the court will consider moving the parties’ trial date to the end of the
15 court’s trial calendar. (*See* 9/27/19 Order (Dkt. # 14) at 2.) Maintaining the current trial
16 date or moving to the end of the court’s trial calendar are the only two options. The court
17 will not imperil the trial dates of other parties on the court’s calendar by granting the
18 parties a 90-day extension to engage in settlement negotiations. If the parties wish to
19 move to the end of the trial calendar, they should file a new stipulated motion to that
20 effect within seven (7) days of the date of this order. The parties should be aware that the
21 court is presently scheduling trials in February 2021. If the court moves this matter to the

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1 end of its trial calendar, the court will also issue a new scheduling order with respect to
2 all remaining pretrial deadlines.

3 Dated this 1st day of October, 2019.

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5 JAMES L. ROBART
6 United States District Judge
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